

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An amine recovery apparatus ~~for recovering an amine compound accompanying a decarbonated exhaust gas~~, comprising:

a carbon dioxide absorption section configured to bring exhaust gas into vapor-liquid contact with an absorbing solution containing an amine compound and produce decarbonated exhaust gas; and

a plurality of water washing section sections configured to bring the decarbonated exhaust gas into vapor-liquid contact with washing water and sequentially recover the amine compound accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas, while the decarbonated exhaust gas passes through the water washing sections in sequence from inlet portions to outlet portions thereof, respectively,[[; and]]

~~a carbon dioxide absorption section configured to remove carbon dioxide from the decarbonated exhaust gas by vapor-liquid contact with an absorbing solution containing the amine compound,~~

wherein the water washing sections have liquid reservoirs provided at the inlet portions, respectively, and the liquid reservoirs reserve the washing water which is transported to the outlet portions of the water washing sections and supplied to the water washing sections, respectively section is constituted in a plurality of stages, and recovery of the amine compound accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas is performed sequentially in the water washing sections in the plural stages.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, wherein one of the water washing sections is supplied with regeneration tower refluxed water [[is]] mixed

with the washing water transported from one of the liquid reservoirs to the outlet portion of one of the water washing sections supplied as washing water to the water washing section.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, wherein the water washing sections comprise one in a preceding stage and one in a succeeding stage, and the washing water is withdrawn from the liquid reservoir of the water washing section one in the succeeding stage and supplied to the liquid reservoir of the water washing section one in the preceding stage.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, wherein further comprising a plurality of demisters [[are]] provided at outlets of the carbon dioxide absorption section and the water washing sections, respectively in the respective stages, the plurality of demisters being configured to remove [[and]] an absorbing solution mist and a washing water mist accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas are removed by the demisters.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower having has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 5 in an absorption tower.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 6, wherein the water washing sections comprise one in a preceding stage and one in a succeeding stage, and the washing water is withdrawn from the liquid reservoir of the water washing section one in the succeeding stage and supplied to the liquid reservoir of the water washing section one in the preceding stage.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 6, wherein further comprising a plurality of demisters [[are]] provided at outlets of the carbon dioxide absorption section and the water washing sections, respectively in the respective stages, [[and]] the plurality of demisters being configured to remove an absorbing solution mist and a

washing water mist accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas ~~are removed by the demisters.~~

Claim 12 (currently amended): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 7, ~~wherein further comprising a plurality of demisters [[are]] provided at outlets of the carbon dioxide absorption section and the water washing sections, respectively in the respective stages, [[and]] the plurality of demisters being configured to remove~~ an absorbing solution mist and a washing water mist accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas ~~are removed by the demisters.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower having has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 6, ~~in an absorption tower.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower having has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 7, ~~in an absorption tower.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower having has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 8, ~~in an absorption tower.~~

Claim 16 (new): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:  
a circulating pump configured to transport the washing water from one of the liquid reservoirs to an outlet portion of one of the water washing sections; and  
a nozzle configured to supply the washing water to the water washing sections.

Claim 17 (new): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 16, wherein one of the water washing sections is supplied with regeneration tower refluxed water mixed with the washing water transported from one of the liquid reservoirs to the outlet portion of the one of the water washing sections.

Claim 18 (new): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 16, wherein the water washing sections comprise one in a preceding stage and one in a succeeding stage, and the washing water is withdrawn from the liquid reservoir of the one in the succeeding stage and supplied to the liquid reservoir of the one in the preceding stage.

Claim 19 (new): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of demisters provided at outlets of the carbon dioxide absorption section and the water washing sections, respectively, the plurality of demisters being configured to remove an absorbing solution mist and a washing water mist accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas.

Claim 20 (new): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 16.